HALLOWEEN MID-CHAPTER BREAK THING...

HAPPY HALLOWEEN EVERYONE!
THIS WEEK, I'M DOING A LITTLE BREAK THING. THERE ARE SOME DRAWINGS OF ATYA CHARACTERS IN HALLOWEEN COSTUMES AND THERE'S A PUMPKIN

CARVING TUTORIAL--

OOH, WHEE, SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD OL', FUH OL' TIME--

WAIT,
HOLD UP.

WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT? HALLOWEEN WAS AGES AGO!

THESE THINGS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE END OF A CHAPTER. HAVING ONE MID-CHAPTER RUINS THE NARRATIVE FLOW!

SOME GREAT POINTS YOU'VE GOT THERE, THEMATICALLY APPROPRIATE APPARITION.

TRUE, HALLOWEEN WAS A WHILE BACK. AND SURE, IT'S A HOLIDAY WHICH RAPIDLY LOSES ITS CHARM...

BUT I NEEDED A SMALL BREAK! JUST TO PULL THINGS BACK TOGETHER.

LET'S GET SOMETHING STRAIGHT. I DON'T LOOK LIKE THIS BECAUSE I SUPPORT YOUR DUMB IDEA.

THIS IS JUST HOW I AM RIGHT NOW.

RIGHT.

AND I SUPPOSE YOU THINK I GREW THIS REALLY OFF-PUTTING PIRATEY BEARD IN A MISGUIDED ATTEMPT TO FEEL LIKE A REAL ADULT.

AND THE EYE PATCH--

THAT'S JUST BECAUSE I'M TOO ANXIOUS TO GET AN EYE EXAM SO MY EYE'S ALL SCRATCHED UP FROM WEARING THE SAME 1 MONTH DISPOSABLE CONTACT FOR OVER A YEAR!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
THAT'S ALL TRUE--
AND HOW I'M WEARING A HAT, FOLKS!
LET'S GET THIS HALLOWEEN PARTY STARTED!

THING ONE

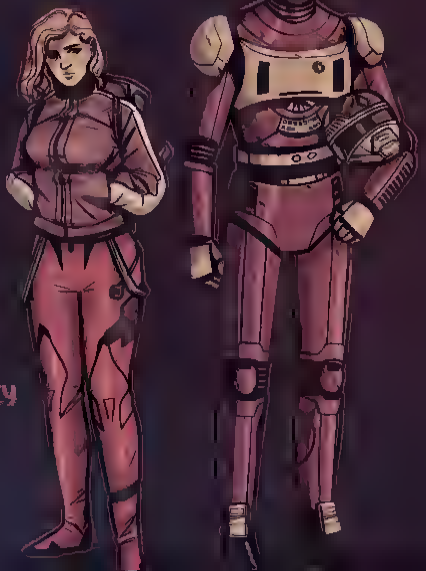
COSTUME TIME!

TILLY
AS
MARTY MCFLY
BABY
AS
PONYO

AMELIA
AS
EDWARD SCISSORHANDS
(while living in the suburbs)

ENOCH
AS
BILL GOLDY

KAYE
AS
ASUKA LANGLEY



THE OGRE
AS
FRANK

RWDN

AS

TNG SECURITY OFFICER

(series dress uniform)

LUCY

AS

LUNA

THING TWO

JACK O' LANTERNS

ONE OF MY FAVORITE HOBBIES
IS CARVING PUMPKINS.

FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER,
MY DAD HAS CARVED INTRICATE JACK O' LANTERNS FOR
OUR FAMILY. SINCE HE SHOWED ME HOW TO DO IT,
I'VE BEEN WORKING TO IMPROVE MY TECHNIQUE EVERY
COUPLE OF YEARS.

I KNOW THIS DOESN'T
REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE COMIC,
BUT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUN TO SHARE A FEW
THINGS I'VE LEARNED WHICH COULD HELP ANYONE
INTERESTED IN TAKING THEIR JACK O' LANTERNS
TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

THIS WOULD HAVE
BENEFITED FROM BEING RELEASED
BEFORE HALLOWEEN...

PLANNING
PHASE ONE

THE FIRST THING TO
DO IS PICK A GOOD IMAGE.

NEGATIVE SPACE IS THE MAIN THING
TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING THE
PERFECT PICTURE.

IS THERE A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE *LIGHT* AND *DARK* AREAS OF THE IMAGE?

DOES THE WHOLE DESIGN EASILY TRANSLATE INTO A *CONTAINED SHAPE* APART FROM ITS BACKGROUND?

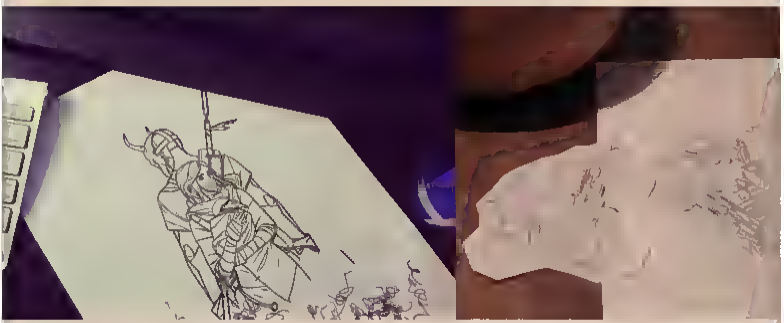
AS YOU CAN TELL FROM MY PREVIOUS CHOICES, YOU CAN KIND OF MAKE JUST ABOUT *ANYTHING* WORK.

AN IMAGE WITH STRONG CONTRAST *WILL* MAKE YOUR LIFE A LOT EASIER, THOUGH.

DRAWING

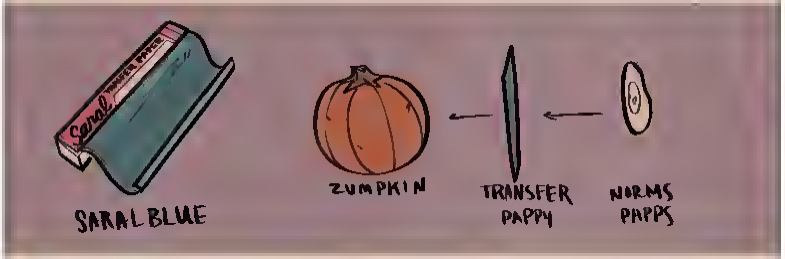
PHASE TWO

THE NEXT STEP IS TO GET
YOUR SELECTED IMAGE ONTO THE
PUMPKIN...*SOMEHOW.*



I START BY DRAWING A SIMPLE
LINE-ART VERSION OF THE DESIGN. NEXT, I PRINT OUT
A FEW COPIES AT THE SIZE I'M GOING TO BE CARVING.

IDEALLY AT THIS POINT,
ONE WOULD SLIP A PIECE OF TRANSFER PAPER
BETWEEN THE PRINTED IMAGE AND THE PUMPKIN.



THEN IT BECOMES A SIMPLE
MATTER OF DRAWRING A DRAWR YOU'VE
ALREADY DRAWRDED. (ALSO KNOWN AS TRACING)
EASY, RIGHT?

WELL, PROBABLY. I WOULDN'T ACTUALLY
KNOW BECAUSE I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE
TO GET THE RIGHT TRANSFER PAPER IN CANADA.

INSTEAD, I DO THIS COMPLICATED BULL CRAP
WHICH DOESN'T REALLY WORK AT ALL.

NORMS
PAPPS

PRESSURE

I USUALLY JUST END UP
FREE-HANDING THE DRAWING IN BALLPOINT PEN
WITH VARYING DEGREES OF SUCCESS.

IT'S WORTH TAKING YOUR TIME ON THE DRAWING PHASE.
THE MORE ACCURATE YOU CAN BE WITH THE PEN, THE EASIER A TIME
YOU'LL HAVE WITH THE KNIFE.

SERIOUSLY THOUGH, JUST BUY THE TRANSFER PAPER.

LIGHTING
PHASE THREE

UM,
SOMEBODY'S GETTING
AHEAD OF THEMSELVES!

EXCEPT NOT.
THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP.
THAT'S NOT TO SAY IT'S DIFFICULT OR PARTICULARLY CLEVER,
JUST NECESSARY.

YOU NEED TO GUT AND LIGHT YOUR PUMPKIN BEFORE CARVING.
HERE'S HOW I SET THINGS UP.

THE DIFFERENCE IN DEPTH BETWEEN TONES IS A MATTER OF *MILLIMETERS*. THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE REAL *SUBTLETY* IN THE CARVING IS TO WORK IN A DARK ROOM WITH YOUR PUMPKIN LIT UP.

CARVING

PHASE FOUR

AND NOW FOR THE FUN/TERRIFYING PART.
CARVING!

I MESS UP SO MUCH WHEN CARVING.
THINGS WILL TEAR AND DRY OUT AND PEEL AND SLIP.
YOU JUST HAVE TO LET IT GO AND HAVE FUN!

THE ONLY TOOL I REALLY USE
IS A BASIC CRAFT KNIFE. IT'S GOOD TO
HAVE A FEW BLADES AS THEY'LL GET PRETTY DULL
BEFORE FINISHING THE ENTIRE PUMPKIN.

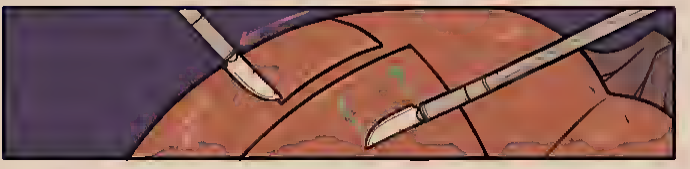
I LIKE TO USE
A CURVED BLADE.

THE CURVE ALLOWS
FOR A SEAMLESS
TRANSITION BETWEEN
HORIZONTAL AND
VERTICAL CUTS. THIS
HELPS WITH CREATING
SMOOTH GRADIENTS.

I'VE TRIED USING
A SCALPEL BUT I
WOULDN'T RECOMMEND

THESE ARE THE MAIN
TECHNIQUES I USE WHEN CARVING.

OUTLINING.



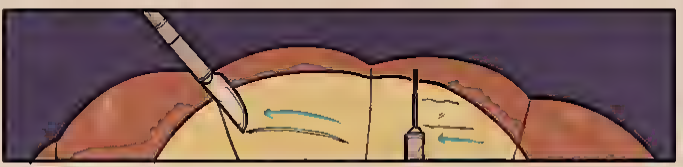
"OUTLINE" ALONG THE HARD EDGES OF YOUR DESIGN. A CUT **STRAIGHT DOWN** INTO THE SKIN WITH THE TIP OF THE BLADE WILL REMAIN BRIGHT FOR A **MINUTE**. NOW YOU CAN EASILY SLIDE YOUR BLADE UP TO THE EDGE OF YOUR DESIGN AND THE KNIFE WILL **NATURALLY STOP**. THIS METHOD HELPS TO KEEP YOUR HARD SHAPES **CLEAN**, AND PREVENTS **OVER-CUTS**.

SHAVING.

THIS IS THE MAIN TYPE OF CUT I USE. HOLDING YOUR KNIFE CLOSE TO THE BLADE AND POSITIONING IT **NEARLY** PARALLEL TO THE SKIN, SHAVE VERY THIN PIECES OFF YOUR DESIGN.
IT'S WORTH CUTTING JUST A MILLIMETER OR SO AT A TIME SINCE YOU CAN ALWAYS CUT OFF **MORE**, BUT PUTTING SOME BACK ON IS TOUGH

CAN ALWAYS CUT OFF MORE, BUT PUTTING SOME BACK ON IS TOUGH.

SCRAPING.



ON ALREADY EXPOSED FLESH, SCRAPE THE DULL TIP OR THE FULL EDGE OF YOUR KNIFE TO CREATE *HIGHLIGHTS*.
THIS CAN WORK REALLY WELL IF DONE SLOWLY. IF DONE TOO AGGRESSIVELY, IT CAN CREATE A WASHBOARD TEXTURE WHICH IS VERY HARD TO FIX.

DISPLAYING

PHASE FOUR

SET YER FRESH JACK O' LANTERN OUT ON THE PORCH
AND WATCH AS KIDS FORGET THEY'RE TRYING TO GET YOUR CANDY
AND JUST STAND ON YOUR STOOP FOR *MINUTES*.

ALTERNATIVELY, POST IMAGES ONLINE AND
WATCH AS PEOPLE LAMBASTE YOU FOR BEING A CHARLATAN.
JUST KIDDING, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN
VERY NICE TO ME...MOSTLY.

THE END!

GOODNESS, THINGS GOT
A LITTLE FIDDLY THERE. AND I ONLY REALLY
SCRATCHED THE SURFACE.
(UGH, THAT WAS NOT AN INTENTIONAL PUN)

I HOPE YOU WERE ABLE TO DERIVE SOME ENJOYMENT
FROM THIS UPDATE!

THANKS SO MUCH TO EVERYONE
FOR YOUR CONTINUED READERSHIP, YOU'VE ALL BEEN SO KIND!
IT REALLY WARMS THE OL' BLACKENED HEART!

I'LL BE BACK TO REGULAR EPISODES WITH THE NEXT UPDATE. SEE YOU ALL THEN!

OPPOSITE OF AHOY!